

ER 60-7153/a

16 September 1960

card
Mr. F. J. Mc Grane

[Redacted]

Dear Mr. Mc Grane:

On behalf of Mr. Dulles, I want to thank you for your letter of 12 September commenting on his recent speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

We do not know of any effort by the Federal Government to develop ideas such as you suggest. In his speech, Mr. Dulles indicated that the problem of education, particularly on the evils of Communism, was more properly a concern of all private citizens.

Your interest in this subject is indeed appreciated. If I might offer one suggestion, the emphasis on Christian concepts presents a peculiar problem in dealing with many of the free world peoples.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Assistant to the Director

O/DCI [Redacted] kp

Distribution:

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(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE [Redacted])

Executive Order
60-7123

September 12, 1960

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director
The Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I have read with considerable interest your speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars as printed in the U.S. News and World Report, dated September 5, 1960.

Your speech reads in part (p. 89): "These men disseminate ideas, and ideas must be met by sounder and more satisfying ideals, not merely by force."

Your statement, if I understand it correctly, summarizes what is to me one of our greatest national misconceptions: viz. confronting an idea system (Marxism-Leninsim) primarily with weapons' systems. Our effort is, perhaps, based on the belief that a military defeat of Russia is co-extensive with the extermination of Communism. The former is, I believe, an effort incorrectly conceived; and the latter is, I am convinced, a dangerous assumption.

Basically, I am asking if you know whether or not our Federal Government is making the effort to develop ideas of Christian, democracy, stretching from metaphysics to political application, which may have more appeal to other nations than our "image" appears to have today.

It seems that the dialectics of Hegel and the materialism of Feuerbach, dressed up for application by Marx et. al., have won the minds of some of the world's leaders. And, it appears to me, we have been singularly unsuccessful in gaining adherents to some of our concepts.

I would like to see started an Institute of Basic Conceptual Systems; its function would be analogous to that of a basic research organization in the physical sciences. It would study, perhaps re-formulate and re-synthesize some of our Christian, democratic concepts. It might discover new principles which we have neglected. We might find a 1960 Jefferson or Hamilton in our midst. I would like to give some of my energies to starting such an organization; I am inquiring if you would take a moment to examine the feasibility and practicality of such an organization.

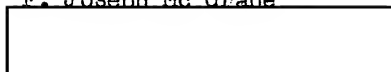
Please be assured that I am aware that your work load probably precludes a detailed reply to this letter; however, if it serves no other purpose, I hope that this letter indicates the interest of one more citizen to meet Communism head-on, idea for idea, to write about it and teach it to our citizens. An informed populace will not accept it; a Christian populace will reject it.

Sincerely yours,

J. L. McNamee

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F. Joseph Mc Grane



Mr. Allen Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.